

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, September 17, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Members absent: Yvonne Brown and William Seal.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Ethel Ewing, Marilyn Gardner, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Eloise Richardson, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton-White.

Guest in attendance: Pete Walley, IHL

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:10 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Joanna Heidel.

Due to a lack of a quorum present, the SBCJC proceeded to move forward with the reports section of the agenda.

Mr. Walker recognized new SBCJC staff member, Marilyn Gardner.

MACJC Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry gave a brief report on the activities of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. The 2000 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Trustees' Conference has been set for July 21-22, 2000. The meeting will be held at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Olon Ray reported on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MVCC). The target date to begin on-line courses is January 2000. The SBCJC office has received proposals for 47 different courses from approximately 90 different instructors for the MVCC. For the spring semester the MVCC will concentrate on offering 20 courses that will team faculty from various colleges.

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Dr. Ray stated that he will be presenting recommendations from the Mississippi Future Net Workgroup for the Board's review during the October meeting.

John Junkin and Patricia Puckett entered the meeting.

Dr. Ray also reported on the new Law Enforcement Training Program in Mississippi. Jones County Junior College is providing leadership and development for the program.

Dr. Ray distributed a brochure, Mississippi's Workforce Education Program for the Board's information (Exhibit A).

Dr. Ray announced that Dr. Charles Chance, the new president of Northeast Mississippi Community College will be inaugurated on Friday, September 24, 1999.

Dr. Ray also reported that Dr. Ted Alexander, president of Pearl River Community College has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2000.

In response to the Board's action to renew the membership in the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and interest in becoming more involved in the organization, Dr. Ray announced that the ACCT would be holding a conference, October 13-16, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Ray informed the Board that he would be out of the office on October 1, 1999, to attend the Mississippi Manufacturers Association's Conference in Destin, Florida.

Dr. Ray stated that a copy of the Mississippi Authority for Education Television's program addressing the need for higher education on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is available for any interested Board member. It was the consensus of the Board members present to view the tape at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of August 19 and 20, 1999, Board Meetings

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 20, 1999, meeting.

After a review of the Thursday, August 19, 1999, evening minutes, and an amendment suggested by John Junkin, related to the review of the policies and applicable statutes regarding representation on the Board, Henry Hudspeth made a motion, seconded by John Junkin, that the Board approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Agenda

Dr. Olon Ray asked that two items be added to the agenda, one to deal with a request for the adoption of two resolutions, and the other, a request to consider an Executive Session to review a personnel matter under, Section K. Other, of the agenda. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

REPORTS/ACTION

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb updated the Board on the activities of the EdNet Board. She reported that on Tuesday, September 7, 1999, a meeting with representatives from the Institutions of Higher Learning, State Department of Education, Attorney General's Office, EdNet Affiliates, and the SBCJC was held to discuss EdNet concerns and to determine what could be done to resolve certain issues.

After a short discussion, the group decided to locate consultants with expertise in Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) and Federal Communication Commission (FCC) issues who could begin to give objective answers to questions.

Mr. Al Lind, of IHL, agreed to locate an ITFS consultant, and Dr. Richard Thompson, of the State Department of Education agreed to identify an FCC Consultant. While researching for an appropriate consultant, Mr. Lind learned from the Executive Director of National ITFS Association (NIA), Don MacCullough, that NIA had organized a Satellite Video conference set for Monday, September 27, 1999, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. to address the common issues that are facing all ITFS licensees. The panelists on the conference will include an FCC Deputy Chief, an engineer, a lawyer, a consultant, and two ITFS system CEO's. ETV has scheduled the video conference in the ETV auditorium and has invited licensees to attend and to engage in a relevant discussion after the conference.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October, November, and December, 1999, General Fund Disbursements from Fund 2298 in the respective amounts of \$8,561,908, \$7,114,381, and \$7,114,381 (Exhibit B).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 30, 1999, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4110 in the total amount of \$2,376,948 (Exhibit C).

Mrs. Fox presented the following reports that did not require action, for the Board's review:

Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 for FY 1999 (Exhibit D)
Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 for FY 2000 (Exhibit E)
Report on FY 1999 General Fund Lapses and Special Fund Carryforwards (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the disbursement of \$134,290.96 to ATS Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. To provide maintenance on the CCN video communication equipment (Exhibit G).

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In other business, Mrs. Fox presented the following reports, not requiring action, for the Board's review:

Data Sheet Report (Exhibit H)
Appropriation History Report (Exhibit I)
County Tax Support Report (Exhibit J).

While reviewing the County Tax Support Report, Mrs. Heidel requested that the SBCJC investigate to determine if the amount of millage levied and collected by counties for support of community and junior colleges is the amount that is forwarded to the colleges. Mr. Walker suggested that the matter be discussed with the MACJC presidents for their insight, and be added to the SBCJC agenda of a future meeting for further review and action.

Workforce Education

Mr. Walker updated the Board on the activities of the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) during their September 8, 1999, meeting. During the Thursday evening meeting the Board viewed a videotape that will be presented during the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing featuring Mississippi workforce training programs. Mr. Walker highlighted the points the SWDC will use in presenting the funding needs for FY 2001. Recommendations will ask for further consolidation of workforce training efforts under the SBCJC, the adoption of a statewide workforce strategic plan, a marketing plan stressing the value and potential of workforce training, voluntary demand-driven skills standards for the workforce, using technology to enhance workforce training, and changing the funding formula for workforce training to be based on a full-time equivalent enrollment. The presentation will also include a statement showing that in 1999 businesses contributed \$21,196,000 to workforce training.

Report on the Employment of an Attorney

Dr. Olon Ray reported that the SBCJC is continuing to interview and accept recommendations for the employment of an Attorney to review the Official Attorney General's Opinion issued on November 12, 1998. Dr. Ray will continue to keep the Board advised on the matter.

GED Report

Eloise Richardson gave a report on the GED and Adult Basic Education Programs. To date the GED office has tested 8,700 applicants and issued 2,648 diplomas. For 1998, the passing rate for first time GED takers was 51%. For the 1999 calendar year, through August, the GED office has mailed out 7,330 transcripts. The office is continuing to gear up for the release of the new 2002 GED Test Battery. When the new tests are released there will be no conversion of previous scores. On January 1, 2002, the slate will be wiped clean and no old scores will be brought forward. Mrs. Richardson stated that the SBCJC GED Office will be making an effort to inform the public of the new requirements. Letters will be provided to the local GED examiners to help inform the public. At the state level, each time an individual is mailed a failure letter from the GED office reflecting their scores, a copy of the letter will be enclosed.

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Mrs. Richardson reviewed the content areas of the new test that will have an increased emphasis on workplace and higher education needs. Eighty percent of the test may be taken with a calculator and GED Testing Service has contracted with Casio to sell calculators to local GED programs at a reduced price.

In the Adult Basic Education (ABE) area, Mrs. Richardson reported that special emphasis is being placed on training teachers to work with individuals with learning disabilities. Three community and junior college ABE instructors attending a training workshop in Little Rock, Arkansas and will provide training for other instructors during the upcoming ABE Regional Training Workshops. Also, Hinds is working with the SBCJC office to train fifteen individuals in the Payne Inventory Program. The Program is a two to three page instrument that identifies the possibility of the presence of learning disabilities. There are plans to eventually have all 550 of Mississippi ABE instructors trained on the program.

Mrs. Richardson announced that Regional ABE Instructors Training will be held on November 13, 1999, at the University of Mississippi, and December 4, 1999, at the Natchez Campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Mrs. Richardson stated that ABE instructors are gearing up for classes in English as a Second Language (ESL). Hazel Terry asked to be provided with the name of the ESL instructor at Meridian Community College.

Mrs. Richardson reported that utilizing the CCN for providing teacher training statewide has resulted in great cost savings on travel and lodging to the SBCJC. The SBCJC has purchased GED Practice Test Software for the local programs that allows an individual to get a flavor of the GED exam and also provides an assessment of what skills need to be improved to allow for an application to successfully pass the examination. Training for the software has been done over the CCN. Peter Waite, Director of Laubach Literacy, participated in the CCN training session.

Mrs. Richardson also reported on a proposal involving the Public Broadcasting System and Literacy Link to develop a Virtual GED Preparatory Classroom.

Funding and Formula Study Committee Update

John Junkin presented recommendations from the SBCJC Funding and Formula Study Committee during the Thursday, September 16, 1999, evening meeting. There being no further questions, Mr. Junkin made a motion, seconded by Hazel Terry, that the SBCJC adopt and endorse the Funding and Formula Study Committee Recommendations, and to forward them to the Legislature for review and action. Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure, and Development

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented the name of Dr. Kay Rayborn, Academic Dean for Copiah-Lincoln Community College for consideration of appointment to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure, and Development. Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted

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unanimously to recommend the appointment of Dr. Kay Rayborn to a four year term on the State Department of Education's Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure, and Development.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by John Junkin, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

John Junkin for attending an SBCJC Funding and Formula Study Committee meeting on September 1, 1999.

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet meeting on September 7, 1999.

For all Board members to attend the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on September 23, 1999.

Henry Hudspeth, George Walker, and Hazel Terry for attending Combase Conference on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Other Business

Pete Walley, distributed a copy of the report from the Mississippi Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning entitled Seizing the Future: On the Right Track for the Board's information (Exhibit K).

Dr. Olon Ray asked that the Board authorize resolutions for Mr. George Baker, a distinguished professor at North Carolina State University, and Mr. Clifton Tolbert, a world renown Mississippi writer for their participation in the annual Lamplighter's Conference. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Sara Fox, the SBCJC voted unanimously to authorize and adopt resolutions for Mr. George Baker, and Mr. Clifton Tolbert.

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed a copy of the tentative itinerary for the SBCJC October Board meeting that will be held at Northwest Community College on October 14-15, 1999.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

Consideration of an Executive Session

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to consider going into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an employee grievance.

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On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to allow Dr. Olon Ray, Ray Smith, Frankie Walton-White, and Sandra Lucas to remain for the Executive Session.

Minutes of the Executive Session

Mr. Walker stated that the purpose of the Executive Session was to consider an appeal filed by employee PIN #7 under the Board's personnel policies and grievance procedures of action taken by the Executive Director to terminate employment effective September 30, 1999. All members of the Board in attendance were provided copies of the employee's Notice of Appeal dated September 15, 1999, and the termination letter to employee PIN #7 from Dr. Olon E. Ray dated September 7, 1999.

Employee PIN #7 addressed the Board as to reasons why the decision of the Executive Director should be overturned. Dr. Ray was given the opportunity to respond to the assertions made and to discuss the justification for the action to terminate employee PIN #7. Additionally, the employee was allowed to elaborate further.


After excusing Dr. Olon Ray, Ray Smith, and Sandra Lucas, the board entered into deliberations regarding the appeal. Board members requested, and were provided a copy of the employee's job description. After careful review and consideration of the Notice of Appeal, the documentation, and statements made by both parties, on a motion by John Junkin and seconded by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the decision of the Executive Director and to deny the appeal. (Verbatim transcription of Executive Session on file.)

John Junkin made a motion, seconded by Sara Fox, that the SBCJC return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel and a second by Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

The interested Board members then viewed the videotape of the Mississippi Authority for Education Television's program addressing the need for higher education on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



George Walker, Chairman

Olon E. Ray
Executive Director